

SPEAKER BAACK: I want to withdraw that

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The amendment is withdrawn. Anyone desiring to speak on the committee amendments to LB 207? Seeing no one, Senator Baack, would you like to close on the committee amendments? Senator Baack waives closing. We will now...Senator Baack waives closing and we will now proceed to vote on the committee amendments. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Committee amendments are adopted. We will move to LB 207 as amended. Senator Baack.

CLERK: Do you want your amendment, Senator, or offer your bill first?

SPEAKER BAACK: Let me just do a brief explanation of the bill first and then we will go into it. I have got a couple of amendments that have come up since the bill was introduced that are needed to address some situations that are going on across the state. LB 207 is purely a clean-up bill. It is to clean up some of the problems that have arisen as the choice law goes into effect in this state. We've run into some problems that are occurring. We cleaned up one of those in the...a couple of them, actually, in the committee amendments dealing with the double-choice problem that we have had, and also in dealing with giving priority status to siblings. LB 207, it also clarifies some existing language that we had on contracts. We had some contract language in there last year and this contract language said that we did not want to subvert any contracts that were in place with choice. And this does some more clarification of annexation agreements. We did not want schools that had normally been contracting with another district all of these years to all of a sudden say, well, we are not going to contract more, we are going to use choice instead. That would have switched the funding over to us. So we are not going to allow that. We are going to say that if they have been operating under contract and been contracting those students to that district, they are going to have to continue contracting those students. They are not going to be able to use choice to pay for those students anyway, because those students were already going to this other district, the contracts are going to